DAVID Y. IGE



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

P.O. Box 3378 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96801-3378

September 15, 2015

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D. DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to:
File: EHA / HEER Office
2015-534-ES

Mr. Gregory Raap, Regional Vice President Ohana Military Communities, LLC 5173 North Nimitz Highway Honolulu, Hawai'i 96818

Facility/Sites: Military Family Housing Neighborhoods at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH)

Subject: Pesticide-Impacted Soils at MCBH Military Family Housing Neighborhoods

Dear Mr. Raap:

The Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) has received additional complaints (attached) regarding concerns over health impacts attributed by residents to pesticide-impacted soils (PI soils) in MCBH military family housing neighborhoods managed by Ohana Military Communities LLC (OMC).

The underlying root of these public concerns is the belief that PI soils were improperly managed and left at the ground surface, resulting in residents being exposed to PI soils during their time at MCBH. OMC developed a *Pesticide Soils Management Plan*, which HDOH approved in 2007, for management of PI soils during construction of new housing to prevent such exposure. We concurred with OMC's *Plan* because we determined that effective implementation of the *Plan* would protect human health and the environment from risks posed by PI soils. However, after completion of construction, OMC did not conduct sampling of surface soils to verify the effectiveness of their PI soil management activities. In the absence of such sampling data, the actual condition of MCBH housing surface soils is unknown, and HDOH can therefore neither confirm nor dismiss these public concerns.

In April 2014, OMC provided a detailed response to our 3/21/2014 Request for Information. At a meeting to review the information you provided, you indicated that you would be working directly with the community through fact sheets, meetings, and other means to address their

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concerns about potential exposures. We were not given these materials and did not review these materials, but see that you have posted a variety of fact sheets and information on line. While we have not been informed about what actions you have undertaken with the residents most recently, the attached letter from Dr. Walter Chun suggests that there appears to be growing and widespread community concern from residents about serious health effects.

We plan to contact the U.S. Agency for Toxic and Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) to formally request their assistance in assessing potential public health risks in OMC neighborhoods associated with PI soil exposure. In order to conduct such an investigation, exposure data are needed. We strongly recommend that OMC design and implement an HDOH-approved soil sampling plan in order to clearly determine the levels of residual organochlorine pesticides present in surface soils in OMC's MCBH neighborhoods. Please submit a work plan for this sampling program to HDOH as soon as possible.

We look forward to receiving your work plan. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Mr. Eric Sadoyama of HDOH's Office of Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response at *eric.sadoyama@doh.hawaii.gov* or (808) 586-0955.

Sincerely,

C:

HAROLD LAO, Acting Program Manager

Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office

Mr. Randall Hu, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Kāne'ohe

Mr. Bradford Davis, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, JBPHH

Dr. Walter Chun, Honolulu

Ms. Angeles Herrera, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, San Francisco

Capt. Robert Knowles, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Region 9, San Francisco

att: 8/20/2015 complaint letter from Walter Chun

9/14/2015 HDOH response to Walter Chun

## **ADDRESSEES**

Walter Chun, Ph.D.

## Personal Matters / Ex. 6

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